Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—There were so many items of contracts which were in progress then. He is an experienced officer thoroughly conversant with the work and knows every nook and corner. That was why he was given an extension till the end of the year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Are there not experienced officers in the department other than this gentleman?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—He has got better experience than the others. He has been in that area almost the whole of his service.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was this extension given at his request?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No. There was absolutely no request from him. It was on the initiative of the Government.

Bridge connecting Parur with Chennamangalam.

133. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. whether they have received any communication from the Travancore Government agreeing to the estimate and plan of the proposed bridge connecting Parur with Chennamangalam;

2. whether they propose to take up the construction of the bridge next year;

3. if the answer to sub-section (2) is in the negative, the reasons for the same?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—1. No; the estimate and plan for the bridge are only under preparation.

2. Government have not decided, pending receipt of the views of the Travancore Government.

3. No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (2).

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—When are the estimates and plans expected to be ready?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We expect it to complete, within a week.

Legislation on labour conditions.

134. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to question 3, dated 31st July 1933, regarding Legislation on Labour conditions, will the Government be pleased to state what they have been doing in response to their assurance 'suggestions will be taken notice of'?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Government are awaiting the results of Economic Survey.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, where is the harm in Government's moving in such useful matters independent of

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the economic survey as they wisely did in the recent grant of the agricultural loan?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Labour legislation is a matter in which the first step has to be taken whereas in the case of relief of economic distress, we do not see the same necessity for scrutiny.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the exact nature of the scrutiny required?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Questions like the amount of labour employed, etc., have to be known beforehand. The Hon'ble Member himself have asked a series of supplementary questions with regard to the extent of forced labour, the amount of wages, etc. All these questions have to be ascertained to find out whether there is a necessity for labour legislation and to find out to what extent the State has to commit itself.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is there any harm in fixing some tentative measure? The final questions can wait till after the report of the Economic Survey.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The question answers itself, Sir. It has the same risks.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—If everything is left to the Economic Survey, I fear we may not be able to do anything.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Everything is not left to the Economic Survey. These questions are intimately connected with the economic condition of the people.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—By what time do you expect to complete the survey?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—By the end of 1110.

Regarding the Economic Survey in the State.

135. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to question 6, dated 31st July 1933, regarding the economic policy of the State, will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) at what stage the Economic Survey has now reached;

(b) the number of months since the department for the Survey was constituted?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Please see answer to question No. 24.

(b) 13.

Mr. K. M Ibrahim.—On a point of order, Sir. The sort of answering questions make it very very difficult for us to ask supplementary questions.

President.—Question No. 24 was answered only very recently. I think it must be within the Hon'ble Member's memory.

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